

DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Federal Disaster Loans for

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□ Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes □ □ U. S. Small Business Administration □
Disaster Area 4 Office

P. O. Box 13795, Sacramento, CA 95853 □ (800) 488-5323 (916) 566-7240 □ □ Contacts: Rick
Jenkins & Karl Whittington □ Release Date: October 1, 2003 □ □

Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses

Sacramento, CA – “Small businesses in all Arizona counties are eligible to apply for low interest disaster loans to offset economic losses because of reduced revenue to farmers and ranchers caused by drought conditions in **all Arizona** counties beginning January 1, 2003. In addition, small businesses located in the California counties of **Imperial, Riverside** and **San Bernardino** and the Nevada county of **Clark** are also eligible to apply for these loans,” announced Alfred E. Judd, Disaster Area Director of the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

“Eligibility for these working capital loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 3.324%, a maximum term of 30 years, and are restricted to businesses without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship,” Judd said.

Small businesses may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$1.5 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses, which could have been met had the disaster not occurred.

By law, SBA makes EIDLs available when the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Secretary Ann M. Veneman declared this disaster at the request of Governor Janet Napolitano.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are ineligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency (FSA) about the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assistance made available by the Secretary’s declaration.

The deadline to apply for these loans is **April 29, 2004**.

Information and application forms may be obtained by writing to **SBA at P.O. Box 13795, Sacramento, CA 95853-4795** or by calling **(800) 488-5323**. Hearing impaired individuals may call **(916) 566-7388**.